

Week 9 TERM 3 2010

Goals for the week:

KEY COMPETENCIES: Responsibility is our focus for this week. We will brainstorm a Y chart on Responsibility - looks like/sounds like/feels like.

INQUIRY: Finish animations and claymations - with titles, credits and music or voiceover. These will be shared into Quicktime so students are able to take these home for viewing. Unfortunately these didn't get finished last week.

WRITING: Finish a letter to our ePals in America. This is proving to be a challenge for most of the students as the epals are not real, yet.

NUMERACY: Cement some basic numeracy facts to those struggling with concepts. (Place value for ones, tens, hundreds & thousands, doubles to 20, 5 x's tables, problem solving using written problems).

Provide an achievable stretch basic of numeracy facts for those achieving well above cohort.

Provide maintenance for those students working at their age appropriate levels.

Introduce new games, providing a variety of interest in maths work.

Maintain the momentum of interest and excitement in playing 'Tutpup' during ICT time.

Test for working level using the Year 3/4/5/6 test sheets.

READING: Provide time for sustained, quiet, uninterrupted reading time of fictions novels of the student's own choosing. Star test for reading comprehension.

PE: Provide opportunity for students to reach an appreciation of playing a team game such as soccer and netball.

ART: Introduce students to claymation - making clay figurines using pipe cleaners, plasticine and clay. Produce a realistic habitat background for the research topic using watercolours.

ICT: Using the computer suite for research purposes, where we learn to ask the right questions and sift the information gained for the answers that best meet our needs.

REFLECTIONS:

Inquiry: Claymations have hit a brick wall. There will only be two finished claymation videos, as the clay dried out too much to work with over the weekend and some of the clay figures have fallen to bits. I have learnt that clay needs vinegar to stick two pieces together. I have also learnt not to try too much in one go!!! One of the finished claymations will be posted on our Wiki site and shows real attention to detail, with titles, credits, voiceover and music. It is faithful to the original written text, storyboard and the success criteria. The process of creating a movie has appealed mainly to the boys in the class, they have enjoyed the hands on approach to the clay work and creating the set, and then the computer work where they have manipulated the work to meet the success criteria. All the finished work is from the boys in the class.

Week 9 TERM 3 2010

ICT: Our ICT suite time this week has been used researching topics such as NZ birds, fish life or reptiles. The end result of this will be a wall/ceiling display that includes a background of the topic's natural habitat with a large drawing of the bird/reptile/mammal mounted onto the background so that it looks a bit 3Dish and a display that includes the researched material.

The students are now using the wiki site to email responses to me. I have yet to explore all the possibilities of integrating this into daily routine. It remains a challenge with only 2 in-class computers and limited suite time.

Key Competencies: The 'Responsibility' Y chart is now hanging in our foyer. This is totally the student work - all students wrote at least one word onto the chart as their contribution - these words were their own or provided by their cohort.

Writing: Students have attempted an editing process on their ePals letter. This was done on the Room 11 wiki site and they emailed their work to me. There remains further work to be done to tidy these up before posting. A work in progress - still !!!!

Numeracy: The Year level testing shows that all students' working knowledge of Basic Facts is above their age level with the exception of Tia , Adrianna and Dahria. (These three students still provide cause for concern with an inability of retaining basic facts and using these in correct situations). All of the year 4 students are achieving above age level (with the exception of Arbaaz, who is working at his chronological age). The majority of the year 4 students are working at 2 levels above their chronological age. One year 3 student is working at year 6.

Reading: The students enjoy their silent reading and are experimenting with the type of novels they are checking out from the library. This shows a huge improvement in the last 2 months where there was a resistance from the boys to reading novels. They enjoy filling in their reading record cards and writing an opinion about the novel.

Classroom management: I have started using a song to indicate cleanup time at the end of the day. Currently we are using *Poi E*. When the music stops the students are expected to be on the mat with their schoolbags ready to reflect upon their learning during the day and what they might need to do overnight to be ready for the next day. We are also playing more co-operative games. These students do not work too well in groups so I instigated a buddy system for Inquiry work. These buddies will be changed approx. every two weeks and are teacher choice not student choice. So far this has worked well in our current research topic